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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

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Illinois, Indiana,
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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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EPA ORDERS LOCAL MAN TO COMPLETE AND PAY FOR DISPOSAL OF ILLEGAL DUMPING AT COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE SITE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 today ordered a Chicago area man, John Schiavone, to complete and pay for disposal of hazardous wastes removed by EPA from Cook County Forest Preserve District property.

Today's EPA unilateral administrative order alleges that on December 23, 1998, Schiavone dumped, or authorized the dumping, of 22 55 gallon drums of paint waste near Maple Lake boat launch and dock area, in the Cook County Forest Preserve at 9500 South, between Archer Ave. and Wolf Rd., near Willow Springs.

The paint wastes, about half of which include ignitable materials, are considered hazardous wastes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which governs the management of hazardous materials from production, through use, and ultimately, environmentally responsible disposal.

After the incident, the materials were stabilized, tested, and excavated by EPA, in cooperation with Illinois EPA and the Forest Preserve District. At present, they are safely stored off-site, awaiting resolution of the disposal

issues. EPA estimates the cost for proper disposal of the excavated soils at a licensed hazardous waste landfill to be less than \$5,000. EPA also seeks to recover its costs incurred in the cleanup, estimated at less than \$10,000.

In December and January, Schiavone was served with verbal and written notices of EPA's complaint, but thus far, has not cooperated or taken steps to arrange for proper disposal.

"All incidents of hazardous waste dumping are taken seriously by EPA and its partner agencies," said regional Superfund Director William Muno. "However, this is especially true when the hazardous material is abandoned in a public recreational area."

Under the unilateral order, Schiavone has 10 business days after the order has been issued to comply or request a conference with EPA. The order then becomes effective and EPA may take whatever steps are necessary to complete the disposal and collect costs and/or penalties.

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